

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 32 were pending previously in this application. Claims 1, 5 to 7, 9 to 13, 16 to 21 and 24 to 32 stand rejected. Claims 2 to 4, 8, 14, 15, 22 and 23 are objected to. Claims 8, 14, 15 and 26 to 32 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 12, 15, 16 and 22 have been amended. No new matter has been added by way of the amendments. Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for the one month extension of time.

In the Office Action Claims 1, 5 to 7, 9 to 13, 16 to 21 and 24 to 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,570,074 to Rode ("*Rode*"). Objected to Claim 8 has been added to Claim 1. Objected to Claim 14 (including elements from base Claim 13) have been added to Claim 12. Objected to Claim 22 has been amended to include elements from its only base Claim 12. Claims 26 to 32 have been canceled. Applicants accordingly respectfully submit that all non-canceled claims are currently patentably distinct over *Rode*.

The cancellation of Claims 8, 14, 15 and 26 to 32 is made to expedite prosecution and without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants expressly reserve the right to file such claims in a continuing application and to argue the patentability of same.

Claims 15 and 16 have been amended only for the purpose of claim dependency and for no purpose relating to patentability.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified patent application is now in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit reconsideration of same.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY



Robert W. Connors

Reg. No. 46,639

P.O. Box 1135

Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135

Phone: (312) 807-4214

Dated: April 13, 2005